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SOURCE Hsin-wen T'ien-ti (Newsdom), No 213, 1952.

CHINESE COMMUNIST AIR STRENGTH  
IN CENTRAL-SOUTH CHINA

This article on the Chinese Communist air strength of Central-South China, published in the 18 March 1952 issue of the weekly non-Communist magazine, Hsin-wen T'ien-ti (Newsdom), was written by Kao Lung-tzu (1) [numbers in parentheses refer to appended characters]. As he mentions in his article, Kao defected to the Chinese Communists in 1949 when the KMT forces retreated from Wuhan, and was subsequently assigned to the CCAF (Chinese Communist Air Force). After serving the CCAF for 2 years, he became disillusioned and he broke his relations with the Chinese Communists.

Kao contended that this step was not taken until he had collected a great deal of information on the CCAF which was classified by the Chinese Communists as "top secret" and which he regarded as being of inestimable value in launching counter-attacks against the mainland.

Information from Kao's article follows:

Soviet Control

During the initial stage after the Chinese Communists had gained control of the mainland, they organized an Air Force, but in reality it existed in name only. An Air Force, in its true meaning, did not come into existence until after the Chinese Communists entered the Korean war. At that time, all Nationalist Air Force personnel who had defected to the Communists became very enthusiastic because they believed that they would be given greater opportunity to use their skills. Contrary to their expectations, however, the Air Force established by the Chinese Communists was in reality only an expansion of the Soviet Air Force into China.

The Air Force Advisers' Office (ku-wen shih) of the Central-South China Administrative Region is made up of Chief Adviser Malinov and 36 Soviet specialists. The highest organ of the Air Force is the Command Office (ssu-ling shih)

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which is purportedly on the same level as the Advisers' Office. The Command Office is made up of four departments: Department No 1, in charge of military supplies; Department No 2, airfield engineering; Department No 3, intelligence; and Department No 4, command, planning, training and rear service activities of the theater of war. Although theoretically the Advisers' Office is on the same level as the Command Office, in reality it maintains a more authoritative position than the latter. The Air Force of the Central-South China Administrative Region must obey the orders given by Chief Adviser Malinov. Liu Hui-nung (2), commander, and Ho Chen-hua (3), chief secretary, must comply at all times with the directives issued by the advisers. The Air Force Advisers' Office of the Central-South China Administrative Region maintains direct contact with the Advisory Department (ku-wen chu) of the Central (chung-yang) Air Force. The 36 soviet specialists mentioned above have been placed in the various departments and sections to control all operations.

Soviet rear service personnel are now in each of the seven strategic air fields located throughout this area. Soviet technicians are in charge of the repair groups and auxiliary forces, and Soviet pilots fly all Yak-15 and La-21 planes in the area. Since the Kremlin actually commands the CCAF, Sun Wu-kung (4) [its nominal commander?] is endowed with only an empty authority.

#### Air Bases

There is a total of 19 air bases in Central-South China as follows: Hankow, Nan-ning, T'ien-ho, Pai-yun, San-ya, Nan-hsiung, Chien-ou, Santsoo, Kuei-lin, Swatow, Yu-lin, Hsi-k'ou, Ch'ang-ting, Nan-ch'ang, Liu-chou, Chih-chiang, Ch'ang-ch'iao, Huang-pu, and Hsia-pu. Planes are stationed only on the first eight airfields mentioned above, of which only the first seven can accommodate jet planes. The remaining 11 airfields are used mainly as stopover and refueling points and their air defense facilities are not too complete.

The 2d Air Group (ta-tui) is stationed in the Central-South China Administrative Region. This Air Group is made up of three squadrons (chung-tui): the 5th Squadron, stationed in Hankow; the 4th Squadron at Pai-yun, T'ien-ho, San-tsao, and Chien-ou; and the 6th Squadron at Nan-hsiung, Nan-ning, San-ya, and Hsi-k'ou.

#### Defense of Airfields

The airfield defense of this area is also controlled by the Soviet personnel. The selection of airfield defense forces is made by Soviet advisers. Several training officers attached to each company (chung-tui) have been assigned primarily as instructors but are actually there to carry out the orders of the Soviet advisers. Two battalions (ta-tui), made up of eight companies, have been established for the defense of the airfields in the Central-South China Administrative Region. With the exception of Hankow, which has two companies, each of the remaining six strategic air bases has only one company.

Forces stationed and equipment installed at the various airfields in the Central-South China Administrative Region are as follows:

##### 1. Hankow Airfield

1st Company [sic], 1st Battalion, Antiaircraft Regiment, Fourth Field Army  
 2 Soviet-built Ko-lan type (5) [Chinese approximation of Soviet-type gun] radar-controlled antiaircraft guns  
 4 Soviet-built 10-round antiaircraft guns  
 1 radar  
 3/18-inch searchlights

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## 2. Nan-ning Airfield

1st Company, Kwangsi Military District Antiaircraft Battalion  
 2/3.2-cm antiaircraft guns  
 2/22-mm twin-mount antiaircraft guns  
 1/16-inch searchlight

## 3. San-ya Airfield

1st Platoon, Antiaircraft Gun Company, Kwangtung Air Defense Headquarters  
 1/3.2-cm Ko-lan type antiaircraft gun  
 2/22-mm antiaircraft guns  
 2/16-inch searchlights

## 4. T'ien-ho Airfield

4th Company, 2d Antiaircraft Battalion, Fifteenth Army Group Artillery Regiment, Fourth Field Army  
 3/22-mm antiaircraft guns  
 6/13-mm twin-mount antiaircraft machine guns  
 2/18-inch searchlights

## 5. Pai-yun Airfield

5th Company, 2d Antiaircraft Battalion, Fifteenth Army Group Artillery Regiment, Fourth Field Army  
 Equipped like 4th Company above

## 6. Nan-hsiung Airfield

2d Platoon, Antiaircraft Gun Company, Kwangtung Air Defense Headquarters  
 2/3.2-cm Ko-lan type antiaircraft guns  
 3/13-mm twin-mount antiaircraft guns  
 1/18-inch searchlight

## 7. Chien-on Airfield

A unit of the Third Field Force (identity of the unit and equipment used for the defense of this airfield are not known)

Since other airfields in this area are used merely as refueling or stop-over points, the responsibility for the defense of such facilities is left to the local forces or militia.

Aircraft

The number and types of aircraft generally stationed in the various airfields and city in Central-South China are as follows:

## 1. Hankow Airfield

35 Yak-15 fighters  
 15 Japanese Zero /sic/ light bombers  
 27 MIG-15 fighters  
 12 La-21 bombers  
 25 Model 90 planes (used as training planes at the training school)

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2. Kan-ning Airfield
  - 4 Yak-15 fighters
  - 3 US-built medium transports
  - 2 Soviet-built reconnaissance planes
3. Canton (recent additions)
  - 7 La-14 fighters
  - 5 Yak-9 jet planes
  - 6 MIG-15 fighters
4. T'ien-ho Airfield
  - 2 US-built medium transports
  - 4 Yak-15 fighters
  - 5 Yak-9 jet planes
5. Pai-yun Airfield
  - 3 Yak-9 jet planes
  - 5 Japanese Zero [sic] light bombers
  - 9 La-14 fighters
  - 2 Soviet-built medium transports
6. San-ya Airfield
  - 1 Soviet-built medium transport
  - 5 Yak-15 fighters
  - 3 Yak-9 jet planes
7. San-tsao Airfield
  - 2 Yak-9 jet planes
  - 3 Yak-15 fighters
8. Chien-ou Airfield
  - 2 Japanese Zero [sic] light bombers
  - 1 US-built medium transport
  - 3 MIG-19s [presumably MIG-15]
  - 5 La-21 bombers
9. Nan-hsiung Airfield
  - 5 Yak-9s
  - 2 Soviet-built medium transports
  - 3 MIG-15s

The following are characteristics of some of the planes in this area:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Yak-15</u>	<u>Yak-9</u>	<u>La-14</u>	<u>La-21</u>
Weight (lb)	12,000	10,000	16,000	18,000
Thrust (lb)	5,000	3,800	5,500	7,500
Range (mi)	900	350	1,350	1,700
Speed per hr (mi)	650	630	620	550

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<u>Description</u>	<u>Yak-15</u>	<u>Yak-9</u>	<u>La-1b</u>	<u>La-21</u>
<u>Rate of climb (ft)</u> <u>/Sec, probably ceiling/</u>	47,000	50,000	4,200	35,000
<u>Jet</u>	Twin	--	Single	Twin
<u>Equipment</u>	1/37-mm gun	3/30-mm guns	2/37-mm guns	2/37-mm guns
	2/13-mm machine guns		1/30-mm gun	
<u>Remarks</u>		Radius of action very limited	For long range	For long range bombing

CHARACTERS

1. 高 龍 子
2. 劉 慧 農
3. 郝 振 華
4. 孫 悟 空
5. 格 蘭 式

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